FEBRUARY 1962

TOC H JOURNAL

PUBLISHED BY TOC H AT 15 TRINITY SQUARE, LONDON, EC3

NINEPENCE

Journal Smalls

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GOING PLACES, 1962. For full list of Toc H Parties visiting Poperinge, Belgium and Holland this summer see last page. These tours usually book-up quickly, and it is advisable to write for details without delay.

FREEDOM FROM HUNGER. The Fund for Human Need, started two years ago, has collected over £20,000 for the hungry and needy, without regard for race, politics, colour or creed. Particulars from Hon. Secretary, 16 Wool Road, Wimbledon, S.W.20. (Toc H Builder.)

WHERE TOC H MEETS—Attractive display cards. New design in black, white and amber, with space for Branch details. 3 for 1s. 6d. from Toc H Publications Dept.

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'THE STILL CENTRE'. The writings of the Bordon Company. Published by Toc H, 4s. 6d. (postage 6d. extra). See article "Birth of a Book", page 61 of this number.

STAMPS. Gifts of Foreign Stamps and Great Britain (4d. values and over) are always welcomed by Toc H Stamps Appeal. C. H. Wake, 475 Roxborough Avenue, Rockcliffe, Ottawa, Canada. Mark Packets 'Free Gift'.

Collections of stamps urgently wanted, used and unused, British and Foreign, ancient and modern. Please send to help refugees, hospitals, and missions. The Rev. Dick Tuesday, 263 Mansel Road, Millbrook, Southampton.

FEBRUARY, 1962

FORTIETH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

TOC H JOURNAL

Letters and articles are welcomed and are printed as individual points of view and are not necessarily those of the Movement

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**Entry for the Competition 'Concerning Toc H', for details see inside back Cover*

COVER PICTURE: Unusual visitor : A wild haggis caught by two Scots, Bill Ritchie and Andy Andrews, when Taunton Branch held a Scottish evening.

Photograph by courtesy of Jim Eaton and Somerset County Herald

EDITORIAL OFFICE · TOC H, 15 TRINITY SQ
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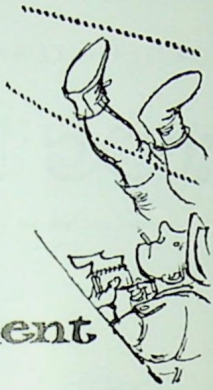
IN AND OUT



-notes & comment

'Concerning Toc H'

THE IDEA for our current competition *Concerning Toc H* was the brain-child of a working member, who generously backed-up his suggestion with a gift of five guineas for awarding to a Branch nominated by the writer of the winning article. Since it was first announced, in September, 1961, a steady stream of articles has been printed. For a periodical like the JOURNAL this is both meat and drink and before the competition closes in September, 1962, we are looking forward to receiving many more entries. There is little means of telling, at present, the number of Branches who are spending a few minutes each month in assessing the contributions, but we are sure that, when the time comes, there will be more than a few who will not find it too easy to decide which has been the premier article.

Young Cyclists

SIX YEARS AGO, four members of Toc H and Police Sergt. George Cox started training juvenile cyclists in the Woking district and preparing them for the cycling proficiency test. The total number of youngsters who have since passed the test has already topped the 2,000 mark, and the Police Superintendent and his officers have assisted by providing examiners. Up to the present, the original five instructors have continued with the scheme and last year there was a very welcome increase in help, given by parents of children being instructed at two schools. Further expansion of this vital scheme aimed at helping to reduce road casualties off the roads, can come if others follow their example. Further details can be had by writing direct to W. T. Crook, of 23 Common Close, Horsell, Surrey.

FROM THE very full fixture-list published in last month's JOURNAL, it is clear that 1962 holds promise of being a bumper year for Dor Knap. In particular, we should like to draw special attention to the Weekend for Jobmasters and Pilots, on April 6–8, being led by Alec Churcher. Branch or District Pilots, either existing or prospective, are invited to apply direct to Alec at 15 Trinity Square, London, E.C.3, not later than March 19, please. The cost for the full weekend is £1 16s. 0d., and a deposit of ten shillings sent with the application will save later correspondence.

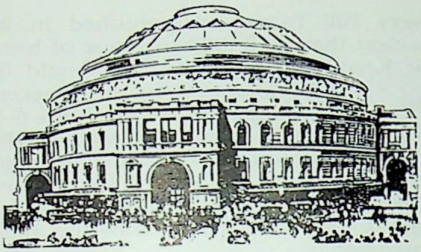
Dor Knap Bookings

AN ENQUIRY into the use of films in hospitals, undertaken by King Edward's Hospital Fund for London, has resulted in the publication of an informative report of particular interest to Toc H Film Units. The purpose of the enquiry was to find out the extent to which films are being used for the entertainment or instruction of patients and whether there is any scope for extending or improving these facilities or for reducing their cost. It also sought to find out the extent to which films are used, or can be used, for the instruction of hospital staff. Replies on which the report is based covered a total of 341 hospitals in London and the provinces of which eighty-four (twenty-four per cent.) provide film shows for their patients. The report adds "Ten out of the eighty-four have their film shows organised by Toc H, Variety Club of Great Britain, Leagues of Friends, or similar voluntary associations". Copies of the report, *Films for Hospitals* (price 2s. 6d., post free), can be obtained direct from King Edward's Hospital Fund for London, 34 King Street, London, E.C.2.

Films for Hospitals

IT MIGHT APPEAR, at first glance, that the plan inviting sixth-formers at Schools affiliated to Toc H to send Christmas parcels to homeless boys in Borstal Institutions would have only a limited appeal. Contrariwise, each year has seen a considerable increase in the number of parcels despatched and, now that the tally for Christmas 1961 has been completed, we are delighted to report that from forty-five affiliated Schools went 500 individual parcels, together with £17 17s. 0d. in cash. This is, near enough, a two-thirds advance on the previous year's response and warm thanks are due to all who shared in supporting this imaginative scheme. One School included a portion of *pate-de-fois gras*, which the recipient at first mistook for haircream, and in acknowledging a parcel "From a Pauline" another boy wrote "you are a good girl to think of us".

Borstal Parcels



Our Summer Festival

Saturday and Sunday, June 16/17

WHY A FESTIVAL? A journey—maybe half the night—to and from, a crowded church service, a bite together in some restaurant, an evening of mixed entertainment, a further chance to meet some friends on Sunday—is that all?

Not by any means; it is no more than the scaffolding of a Festival. Inside it we build a House for Fellowship which may endure in the memory all our days. Many an old member will tell the newcomer that it was at a Festival that he first saw Toc H as a whole. All round the year we work in our Branch—and the Branch is the real strength of Toc H, its fighting unit. Once every now and then we come face to face at a Festival with men from more Branches than we had ever dreamed of. And then our Branch drops into its indispensable place in the world-wide Family: we know *why* we must go back to maintain it.

"Festivals", said a wise old writer, "are ordayned to serve God onlie"—and that is the plain truth about our ¶ Festival. Every moment of it, the gayest as the most solemn, is a part of our consecration of the commonplace to the service of God and man.

To Publish Abroad

JOHN CALLF

The first of a series of articles dealing in practical fashion with ways and means of making Toc H better known. Further articles will outline differences between Public Relations and Publicity; the work of the Branch P.R.O. and how to obtain the right kind of Publicity.

THE FILM on Dor Knap, produced by ABC Television for the independent television network, was followed by a brief 'live' studio discussion of Toc H, in the course of which the interviewer suggested that Toc H was not as well known as it ought to be and that something should be done about it.

Just because he said this doesn't necessarily make it true. We often hear of Branches which, when they go to the public for some kind of support, are astounded at the immediate goodwill there is for anything to do with Toc H. But even if what the interviewer said were true, it might be easier to say it than to do something about it. Nevertheless we should be grateful to him for having created argument within Toc H up and down the country. This may therefore be a good time to begin a short series of articles on the general theme of making Toc H better known.

Here and there I still meet the remark "Of course Headquarters frowns on publicity". I wish I knew who started that one. It is as wide of the mark as that other heresy that occasionally rears its ugly head "We don't say thanks in Toc H".

It would be quite true to say that Headquarters frowns on *bad* publicity—so one would hope—but to say that Headquarters frowns on all publicity is absurd. Can

those who say this be hiding behind it as an excuse for their own inaction? Consider some of the facts:—

(1) Toc H employs the services of a Press Adviser. For eight years Colin Wintle's advice and experience have been available to Areas, besides all the central public relations work that he does. Colin has already contributed articles about publicity to the Journal and will do another in the present series.

(2) Ever since the earliest days Toc H has subscribed to a news-cuttings agency. We are sent a cutting of every reference to Toc H in all the local and national papers. These cuttings are then sent to the Areas concerned for whatever action they choose to take. The cuttings range from very good to very bad—but of that more will be said in a later article.

(3) Tubby Clayton has a genius for publicity—and knows how to use it aright. He has shown the great power of the printed word and of the illustration to go with it.

(4) Our Literature and Publicity Committee is constantly renewing and reprinting give-away or inexpensive leaflets describing Toc H. *Mixture of Men, Toc H Defined, The Case for Toc H,* are typical samples. There is the Toc H film *A Lamp Burns* which members are asked to show to outside friends, not just among themselves. Posters and film strips are also available for any would-be publicist.

But the strongest reason why Toc H should be concerned with good publicity is surely in the words we use at every Branch meeting in the Ceremony of Light. Curiously one comes across members who say quite seriously that we ought to hide our light under a bushel. Yet Jesus said it is the one thing we must not do. We must put it on a stand; "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven".

He was all in favour of proper publicity for proper ends. So should we be, but first there must be good works to show. By good works we mean not only the service we render. Adventurous fellowship, the glorious mixing of men, extension work, creative thinking, all these are good works too. One is bound to say that it is usually the dullest Branches, the least active in good works, which shout loudest to Headquarters for "more publicity". For them publicity is some sort of lifebelt, something which will stop them going down for the last time. Publicity alone couldn't save them. If by chance

some new enquirers did find their way along it is pretty certain their interest would be killed stone dead by what they found.

Publicity then is no substitute for good works.

Successful Branches very rarely shout for "more publicity". They are their own publicity: they've got something to shout about. What's more it is their duty to shout about it, not in order that people may say what fine fellows they are, but that people may give glory to God that such things are done and may perhaps join in the work.

Stanley Newton, Old Coulsdon

Toc H and Scouting

STEPHEN JACK

MANY READERS must have responded, at least in spirit, to the timely and constructive letter from Derek Yardley Wright in the December JOURNAL. The lack of mutual understanding between the two Movements is, I fancy, less than he suspects.

Between their London H.Q.s the liaison is cordial and well-informed—but this is only one step along the magic mile. Our beloved TUBBY is anxious that it should become once again a man-to-man relationship, as it was during the mid-twenties. It was then that Scouting brought *me* in touch with Toc H—and on Tower Hill.

at the very heart of the Family. These two threads have been woven side by side through the warp of my life for thirty-six years now; no-one can be more familiar with the common ground. Significantly, there is room in the lapel buttonhole for a Toc H badge and a bronze pin 'arrowhead' side by side!

Now, what of the next step? Obviously the Branch Chairman and the District Commissioner in any and every locality must get to know and agree with each other: each invites the other to talk (or, if necessary, depute an abler speaker to talk) at a meeting—of the Branch, and of the Local Association. Do we stop there? We must not! Toc H is invited to delegate a member to serve on the Executive of the Scouts L.A.; this has been so in Hendon since I became D.C. six years ago, and has proved most fruitful. Next, the Jobmaster and the A.D.C.s for Seniors and Rovers meet and compare notes, in an informal social service survey—a sharing of jobs should result. Thus Scouts (of varying ages) and Toc H members get to know each other in the best way possible —by 'taking their coats off and getting down to it'—with a shared meal, preferably, as aftermath.

So much for a basis of friendship, arising out of joint service to the wider community: what of the *mutual* service that should follow? Toc H members, having seen something of Scouts in action, may join and support the Local Association, or offer themselves as Group Committee members, meeting about once a month; they may even find that in practical Scouting lies their true bent, as a regular form of Toc H service. (The right kind of leadership is always urgently needed; but for this factor, numbers could be doubled in a year—every good Scout Group has a waiting-list.) They may become ambassadors of one movement when talking casually to members of the other—and this can develop into a constant two-way traffic. On the other side of the picture, Senior and Rover Leaders can influence their chaps to join Toc H—not an illogical step when they have

completed their Scout training—a means of reducing the average age in the Toc H Branch, and of "keeping feet firm, hands busy".

Finally, there is the spiritual benefit that may accrue. Mature members of either movement acquire, more often than not, a quality of life—an integrity of purpose—an inner strength on which others tend to lean, with no word spoken. Both movements are stayed upon obligation to

Ronald Thompson, Denbigh

Final talk to Senior Scouts before commencing a mountain climb.

seek the one true God and worship Him: such is our need. Immeasurably strengthened, surely we must join hands in this. Branch padres and Scout chaplains can help here, but it is principally the layman's job. Many Toc H men, truth to tell, are still groping for a personal Faith to which they can commit themselves wholly. All boys need to become true sons of God—they can't know how important this is, but *we* do. Quiet witness, through conversation and conduct — often without specific

reference to religion—paves the way; but in either 'family' we need as well to be ready for any genuine opportunity to speak of God and His Plan for us, simply and without embarrassment, bearing in mind the Toc H precept "to witness humbly".

The influence of the Church is perhaps a little more clearly visible in and through Toc H: yet in Scouting, in the past five years especially, the importance of the first point in the Promise every Scout makes (and tries to keep) is being given extra emphasis: he undertakes to do his best to do his duty to God. Without knowing Him, how can he hope to succeed in this? Without the inner strength such knowledge brings, how can he hope "to help other people at all times" and "to obey the Scout Law"? One of our principal concerns, in training him, is to nurture in him, as far as in us lies, a growing sense of the presence and Love of God, in the wonders of woodland and sky and in human companionship. If we dare hope to help in this direction, the boy must be able to see in us at least a glint of that light the Scripture bids us to let "so shine before men, that they may see . . ." any Toc H member can finish the quotation.

We must try, then, to be translucent. There is another light—but no! it is the same light—that many a Toc H man has seen shining in the eyes of a boy (his own son or another's) when he is really happy. Perhaps the man has helped to kindle that light. It is the privilege of every Scouter, with God's help, to keep that light shining—using the well-tried method devised by 'B.-P.' He was a President of Toc H; can we not take steps to demonstrate that this was no conventional compliment, but a sign of that deep-rooted goodwill that demands action for its maintenance? If we set our minds and hands to it, I do not doubt that the Brotherhood and the Family can work in partnership to bring appreciably nearer "God's Kingdom in the wills of men".

FROM ALL PARTS

-area news

LINCOLNSHIRE

Whatever the trials and difficulties of the past year, all units, weak or strong, come alive at Christmas in their efforts for the elderly and the needy. At SUTTON-ON-SEA the members erected a huge Christmas Tree right on the seafront; lit braziers on either side, provided hot sausage rolls and mince-pies, and invited the local inhabitants to join them. Over 300 accepted the invitation and after some lusty singing, younger friends joined the Branch in touring the locality singing for the elderly and the housebound.

At WEST PINCHBECK the members were re-inforced by members of the local Youth Club. Touring the village on the back of a lorry, accompanied by piano and accordion, they sang carols and collected over £20 in the process for Dr. Barnado's Homes. At MALTBY LE MARSH, carolling and a Toy Service assisted the work of the N.S.P.C.C., whilst in the small village of OSGODBY sterling work was done by the few in raising over £20 for their Old Folks Party which has already become a tradition in the village.

STAMFORD, assisted by the Old People's Welfare Committee, were able to send out over 300 parcels to elderly citizens, whilst in the small village of LACEBY a total of over 120 bags of logs were delivered to the aged inhabitants. Carolling here; log distribution there; parties for the elderly and parties for the needy included one by LINCOLN Branch for over fifty poor youngsters.

Only space limits the story of goodwill, but from all corners of the Area comes evidence that those that first sought to serve have received as much fun and pleasure as those they served. In addition, it has become evident once again that there is tremendous goodwill for Toc H also in the number of friends who have willingly offered assistance in so many ways.

GEORGE LEE.

MANCHESTER

News has been coming through from all quarters of old folks' parties for Christmas, at LEIGH and DIDSBURY to name only two. In both places the members acted as organisers on behalf of local tradesmen who provided either good food or money for the party. A local Church lends a hall and amateur entertainers come after tea to complete the evening. At REDDISH, having sent out over 150 letters to local tradespeople they looked after their local old people by repeating their annual distribution of groceries and Christmas fare provided by the tradesmen. They collected enough goods to send eighty parcels to the old and needy.

DUKINFIELD looked after their old folk by throwing a party on January 6, when the Mayor and Mayoress attended.

Marksmen from MARK XIV did their annual stint of decorating the wards of Hope Hospital, and Leigh Infirmary was dealt with in a similar way by LEIGH Branch.

Children deprived in one way or another, have been provided with toys both at LEIGH and STOCKPORT. At Stockport the Jobmaster found a family of nine deserted by their father, and both men's and women's Branches rallied round with toys and food at the last minute. There was so much response with clothing and toys that there is now a reserve stock for other families.

Such stories could be repeated in many other Lancashire and Cheshire towns (not to mention the five in North Staffordshire), if the information could be squeezed out of Jobmasters or Secretaries.

BOB KNIGHT.

Last October CHEADLE HULME Branch undertook the experiment of a Leaflet Raid on the District. This comprised the delivery of 5,000 copies of a carefully worded account of the objects of the Movement together with a direct invitation to attend the showing of the film *A Lamp Burns* at the Branch Rooms on October 20. Unfortunately the night turned out to be a rain deluge and the attendance suffered accordingly. However, six prospective members are already attending regularly with the possibility of more. The Raid has undoubtedly made an impact in the area of the Branch. The many enquiries prove that Toc H is definitely 'on the map'. As to the meeting itself. This, we think, was most effective in illustrating the aims and objects of the Movement.

Jack Shaw's introduction to the film was made in an admirable and, may we say, typical manner. We are indebted to him. The Branch recommends similar Raids and thinks that nothing but good will result. If the Lamp is to burn then let its light shine before all men and not be held under the counter. To let the whole of the neighbourhood know of our existence and what we stand for should be a priority whether it results in a larger membership (which is most probable) isn't as important as creating a friendship and a knowledge with a large proportion of our neighbours. Until now very many hardly know of the existence of Toc H let alone its objects. The Branch will be glad to submit a copy of the leaflet to any Unit contemplating having a go.

B.C.

J. F. W. Cocks, Stratford-upon-Avon Herald

Padre Josue Danho and Mrs. Danho from Ivory Coast with Bob Purdy, West Midlands Area Secretary, and other members at Stratford-on-Avon Branch's Guest-night.

WESTERN

A series of Branch Officers' Training Days has been arranged to cover the whole of the Western Area and two of these so far have taken place. The first at CHIPPENHAM had a good Branch representation and the four members of the Area Executive who were 'performing' found the gathering very responsive. It was obvious that a Training session need not be a solemn occasion. There was lots of fun and laughter mixed up with the serious business of leading the family. The Warden of Mark XVI, Swindon, made a considerable impact on a number of those present.

The second Training Day took place in BRISTOL and on this occasion four different members of the Area Executive carried out a slightly changed programme. Again this was full of fun and laughter, and a number of members conveyed horror in their faces until the penny dropped and they realised that the performance was intended as a caricature.

The third of the Training sessions is due at STROUD and yet another four members of the Area Executive will make up a Branch Officers' Team. It is pretty obvious that these training sessions are valuable and already have had a number of interesting results.

Two Districts are arranging their own Conferences of Treasurers and, indeed, one of them has become very keen to see that their entire District is fully aware of the Family Purse.

The Sunday Night Youth Club, meeting at the Area Centre, have received a number of letters from grateful recipients of the parcels they sent out to old people in and around the Area Centre at Christmas time. This exercise was as good for the young people as it was for the old.

The Guinea Pig group have arranged to man the telephone trolley service at one of the local hospitals, some sixteen young men and women are undertaking this duty.

The recently formed Joint-group at GREATHOUSE, a Cheshire Home, near Chippenham, is going well and the appointed officers are taking most seriously the responsibility of a Toc H family in this very different community situation.

Captain JOHN ENGLAND, M.C., Toc H Member since January, 1922, has been organiser for Toc H Builders in Bath from 1933 till his recent retirement from this office. We would like to pay a warm tribute to his faithful and effective building up of the Builders' Scheme over these many years and especially for his zeal in recruiting a succession of thirteen mayors of the City of Bath.

JOHNNIE MACMILLAN.

BEDS. & HERTS.

"We should all bear constantly in mind, that the machinery is meant to be the servant and not the master of the personal relationships which are at the heart of Toc H."

Do you know all the members of your District Team? Do you know the members of the Area Executive, and can you put faces to those members of the Area Guard of the Lamp? Do you always agree with the things they do, or perhaps more important, plan, in the way of Training—who *is* responsible for Extension—it is never *our* job is it? What bees have these crazy men got into their heads to make us have more and more meetings without getting down to brass tacks, what sort of Branch can they belong to!

How many times have you heard all these things said, and who are *they* anyway? Well, the Beds. & Herts. Area Guard of the Lamp are going to be very brave. After spending considerable time discussing the merits of District Teams and Area Sub-Committees, as requested by the Central Guard of the Lamp, we are not convinced that our confirmed belief will be accepted in every corner of the Area. So, on Saturday March 17, all members, members-elect (or call them what you will), will be welcomed by the Area Guard of the Lamp, at their 'At Home' at The Rectory, Marston Moreteyne, Bedford. It's not exactly central we know, but with the invitation extended to wives and families, not excluding girl friends, we trust that all who are concerned in any way with life in the Toc H Area will come.

Not just come but meet, and thrash out with our active and hard working members of the Guard just what it is they are trying to do. Sponsorship, Recruitment, helping both Branches and Districts to corporately maintain the principles and standards of our Movement, the quality of our service and training of

individual members at all levels. Why do we have to have a re-grant of Branch status and for how long? These must concern you wherever you are—and Extension, ah! yet again, who is responsible for this—let me think. . . .

Let us all think, and for those in Beds. & Herts. a lot of thought has already gone into this, but here is the invitation to a Family Day in a country village for the men to meet 'Them Up There' —who are they now? Freddie Petch, David Gullick, Alan Hawkins and Padre John Larter plus yours truly as Secretary. Come and meet the faces, and, whatever you may think, believe that our machinery *is* a servant and certainly not master of the personal relationships that we know are the very basis of Toc H.

RAY FABES.

Kentish Express

Ashford members packing parcels for distribution to old folk.

KENT

Sawing logs for old People was one of SOUTH ASHFORD Branch's Jobs about seven years ago—then ASHFORD organised a Children's Day at Christmas and all Branches in the District took part in collecting toys (and as a side line gifts for the old folk). It was noted that the 'sideline' brought more gifts than anticipated. The following year the Old People were given preference and some 150 parcels of food were distributed in Ashford and district. Christmas 1961 resulted in a total of 700 parcels being packed and distributed by all Branches in the district.

RICHARD SMAIL.

SCOTLAND

The new group at HYNDLAND organised an impressive Service at the East Partick Church, Glasgow, on Sunday, December 3. Many of the 300 strong congregation were members or friends of Toc H. Prior to the Service, which was conducted by the Rev. Michael Orr, group Padre, community hymn-singing took place accompanied by the Clydebank Burgh Silver Band. Members from Ayr, Cumbernauld, Paisley, Largs and Falkirk, were also present. Hyndland group would welcome the names and addresses of former members of Toc H who have moved from elsewhere to Glasgow and who might not know about this new venture.

STIRLING Branch have been going over their accounts in connection with aid which they have given to St. Dunstans and Newington House War Blinded Associations and the following figures revealed the extent of the Branch's endeavour in support of the two Institutions, since 1953. Up to 1944 the sum of £1,052 had been collected in a variety of ways on behalf of the Blind; since 1945, £2,218 has been forwarded to Newington House, making a grand total of £3,270. This is just another example of persistent and unspectacular achievement on the part of a small group of dedicated members.

SELKIRK Branch held their Rededication Service in conjunction with their observance of the World Chain of Light on December 12 when some 100 members and friends filled, almost to capacity, St. John's Church, Selkirk. The Service was conducted by the Rev. George Scott, Branch Padre, and representatives from Edinburgh, Galashiels, Hawick and Kelso attended. Afterwards a get-together took place in the Church Hall.

The employees of Phillips Hamilton Works Ltd., assisted by members from STONEHOUSE Branch, entertained under-privileged children from the local Dunavon House to tea followed by a film show. The Branch are setting up a library for the children in this Home and would welcome children's books, in good condition, for this purpose.

LARBERT Branch, whose membership is none too strong, have now almost completed their new hut, a substantial wooden building, which they have erected themselves and installed electric light and heating. Having completed these new premises they now hope to extend their membership and also their work in the local community.

COUPAR ANGUS, one of the more isolated units in Scotland, held a very successful Guest-night, despite quite appalling weather conditions. Over thirty members from Dundee and other parts enjoyed a most excellent film show and an evening of entertainment and hospitality, organised by the members and their ladies.

JEDBURGH Branch, having gone through somewhat lean years of late, have initiated no less than six new members during 1961 and are now feeling that they can make themselves really felt once more in Toc H Border activities. REG STEWART.

Wiltshire Newspapers Ltd.

Supported by members of Chiseldon Branch, Charles Joyce (right) presents an inscribed pewter tankard to their retiring Padre, the Rev. S. W. A. Collins.

NOTTS. & DERBY.

In July 1960, five men met to discuss a proposal to set up a Telephone Samaritan service in Nottingham. Police records of suicide attempts showed that an average of eleven attempts were made each month of which three succeeded. Could anything be more worthy of tackling since the prime causes of suicide were unhappiness, insecurity and sheer human loneliness.

¶ The obstacles were enormous, but a conversation with the Bishop of Southwell gave inpetus to the plan to forge ahead. With his backing and that of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Nottingham, the Jewish Rabbi and the Free Church Federal Council, great strides were made in organisation. Every church of every denomination received an individual letter calling for volunteers. Premises were found by the group and furnished by local manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers. Training lectures were arranged and applications made to local charities for funds.

On January 1, eighteen months later, a complete organisation was ready. Volunteers maintain a twenty-four-hour watch beside the emergency telephone, Nottingham 45000, which within a few hours of opening, rang to bring the organisation to life. The first client was booked and work had begun.

From this achievement Toc H has become more widely known in the community and many wish to know more of the Movement. As a direct result a new unit has been formed in the centre of Nottingham, by volunteers from the Samaritan organisation who want to know what makes us tick. Toc H has gained many new friends, its name is table talk and has justified itself in tackling a big job for the sake of the community at large.

DERRICK BULLOCK.

LONDON

Sweet are the pleasures that to verse belong;
And doubly sweet a brotherhood in song.

With this quotation from Keats the Toc H London Male Voice Choir introduces its Annual Report for 1960/61. The aims of the Choir are to spread the spirit of Toc H; to promote and further the interests of singing among men; and to provide entertainment for people in Old Folks' Homes, Hospitals, Blind Clubs and the like. It is a fact that, particularly in Old Folks' Homes, despite the provision of radio and television, live entertainment such as the Choir can give is greatly appreciated. It seems that people are, not surprisingly, more important than things.

The Choir consists of twenty-six members and the report shows that they were out singing on twenty-two evenings during the year. In addition, rehearsals take place every Monday at 42 Trinity Square, and when one considers the amount of correspondence and so on which must be necessary, it is clear that a great deal of hard work has been put in. The past year's work has, in fact, been worthy of the Choir's traditions. The Choir's chief anxiety is the obtaining of new members to take the place of those who inevitably drop out from time to time, so that fresh blood is always needed to maintain its standards for the future. The Hon. Secretary is Brian Everett, 31 Monkfrith Way, London, N.14.

MAYNE ELSON.

EASTERN LONDON

Careful thought and planning brought its reward in a most successful Guest-night held by HAINAULT. The Branch booked the Toc H film *A Lamp Burns* for an evening some weeks ahead. They then sent out some 125 printed invitation cards to their friends, neighbours and acquaintances. Many of the invitations, of course, were addressed to "Mr. & Mrs.". They received sixty-five acceptances, all from people who were strangers to Toc H. As each guest arrived, he or she was presented with a folder containing some Toc H literature—the men's folders contained a recent copy of the JOURNAL, *The Story of Toc H*, and *Mixture of Men;* the women's folders contained a copy of *The Log* and other pamphlets from the Women's Association. The guests browsed through this literature until the evening's programme began. The programme was introduced with the showing of the film and then there was a break for tea and a biscuit. This was followed by a five-minute talk on the work of the local Branch and then another five minutes' talk on the work of a neighbouring W.A. Branch. After explaining the simple ceremony, 'Light' was taken and it was emphasised that Toc H is not an ex-Serviceman's organisation. Questions and answers followed and the evening was brought to a close with Homegoing Prayers. It all proved very acceptable to the guests and one immediate result is probably the formation of a local Toc H W.A. Branch.

JIM GREEN.

Bournemouth Echo

Contact with Builders and General Members is maintained through the Bournemouth Toc H Supper Club's monthly meetings. Picture shows (l. to r.) Col. G. R. Rae (Chairman); Councillor Deric Scott (Mayor of Bournemouth); Sergeant Joan de Pledge of the Bournemouth Police Force (Guest Speaker) and Edward Ball (Club Secretary).

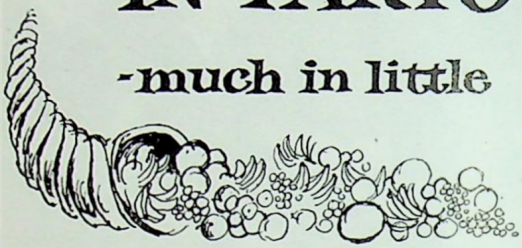
SOUTHERN

Some of the members of our PORTSMOUTH Branch are regular visitors at St. Mary's Hospital, where they go to see the patients who have come over from the Channel Islands for special treatment, and who often have no visitors from home during their stay in hospital. One such patient is Toni, an Italian, who entered the hospital about six months ago, unable to speak or understand a word of English. He was away from all his friends, a sick and a very lonely man. One or two of the members, by means of an infinite amount of patience and sign language, helped to ease his loneliness and cheer him up. The next step was to approach the local Linguistic Society, and to get a couple of their members, who could speak Italian, to visit him. Following this, several Italians who live locally were informed of Toni's presence in the hospital, and they are now paying him regular visits. The happy outcome of all this is that Toni is responding successfully to his treatment.

During the past few months the Teams in two of our Districts have made themselves responsible for organising a series of Get-togethers to hear experts talking about some aspects of the Welfare Services. In the Southampton District, three talks were given on "Homes for the Elderly", "The Blind and Handicapped", and "Old People's Welfare". In South Dorset District, a talk and an 'Any Questions Panel', dealt with the 1959 Mental Health Act. During the discussion that followed these talks, members were trying to see how best Toc H can assist the good work that is already being done in these fields of service. FRED BROOKER.

MULTUM IN PARVO

-much in little



THE FOUNDER PADRE and JEREMY POLLOCK are expected back from Canada and the United States late this month.

WILLIAM J. HARRIS has been appointed to the Staff and will be going later to Notts. & Derby to succeed LES WHEATLEY after he has moved to Newcastle.

CHARLES YOUNG, lately Northern Secretary, is now preparing for the opening of the new Prideaux House, Mark III.

E. R. (BOB) PRESTON, lately Commissioner, B.A.O.R., has been appointed a Marks Pilot.

CENTRAL COUNCILLORS have been asked to nominate their candidates for the new Central Executive by February 20; also by then to give notice of any motions they wish to propose at the annual meeting in Derbyshire on March 31 and April 1.

GENERAL MEMBERS: Their membership subscriptions, if not paid under deed of covenant or banker's order, were due in January.

BRANCH MEMBERS' ROLLS: All were due by January 15.

'GUYS AND DOLLS' at the Scala Theatre, London, on February 13, in aid of the new Mark III.

The LONDON SPORTS at Battersea Park from 3 to 6 p.m. on May 26.

DOR KNAP: Open Day on Whit Monday, June 11.

THE FESTIVAL IN LONDON from 3 p.m. on JUNE 16 to 4 p.m. on JUNE 17.

The LANGDALE CAMP Week from June 23 to 30 for fit men wanting to walk and talk in the Lake District. Apply to J. R. Elliot, 10 Denewell Avenue, Low Fell, Gateshead 9, Co. Durham.

Birth of a Book

The newly published "The Still Centre" is based on the letters written by members of The Bordon Company. Here, the compiler tells why and how the book came into being.

WHEN I FIRST heard of the Bordon Company, it had been in existence for about eighteen months. I asked if I might see the Letters so far issued; they were promptly sent. I read them through at a sitting and was not deeply moved. But I had no doubt about my desire to join the Company; here was a simple Rule of Life that was in line with the existing pattern of my life, and here was a body of men (and some women) engaged on an enterprise which I already knew to be as difficult as it was rewarding. How good to find an anonymous company of fellowseekers, prepared to share with me their deeper experiences.

Membership being granted without examination and thankfully accepted, I duly received the monthly Letter for the next two years. I read each in turn with interest, usually with profit, sometimes with excitement when it chimed in with some ground bass in my own experience and occasionally with that flash of recognition that seems to be reserved for what I can only call a revelation, almost an annunciation, from the eternal world. One such springs to mind: the picture of the soldier in the Old House praying 'for our brothers on the other side of the line'. But the Letters as a whole had not made any particular impression or played any significant part in my thinking during those years.

Towards the end of the fourth year, I was asked whether I thought the material in the Letters was worthy

of a more permanent form—could they perhaps be worked up into a small book? I had little hesitation in discouraging the idea. I could not remember that any Letter had shown sufficient literary merit to make an immediate claim for publication. However, I promised to look again at them more carefully.

This time I tried to look at the enterprise as a whole and was given a new realisation of what the Bordon Company was trying to do. These men were not trying to write 'papers' or even to give their thoughts any kind of literary expression, they were shyly and reluctantly, encouraged by anonymity and the sense of fellowship, to share some deep experience which had given them some glimpse into the world beyond time and space. The Letters sprang from a common interest in learning to practise an art; the writers were like members of an art club showing each other their sketches. This was interesting—could help me in my own tentative efforts, might have something to say to a wider public; possibly even grow into a small book?

But was there enough variety? I made a rough check against a scheme of Prayer that I was finding increasingly useful and discovered that the Letters had something to say under nearly every head. So into the car went MSs and typewriter and once settled in lonely comfort in my hotel caravan on the coast of Pembrokeshire, I added scissors and paste to my equipment and on the alternate wet days set to work. Three uninterrupted days of work among a company of unseen friends brought a book into shape; the other four days of sunshine for exploring the loveliest coastal scenery in Great Britain gave time for exercise, meditation and digestion. I felt and still feel deeply grateful to my Companions for the inspiration they gave me in that memorable week.

I can now only hope that they will recognise and accept the book as their own. If it is in any true sense a book, it must bear a personal imprint and can only express the thoughts of one member of the Company, even though

his work has only consisted in giving a shape and unity to the thoughts of others. The original title chosen, *Men Praying*, met with opposition; but I have stuck to its inclusion as expressing exactly what the book is about and how it came into existence. The cover design, by Ian Armour-Chelu, is based on 'the still centre of the turning world,' 'the stillness at the heart of energy', on Him who is the Light which is not 'comprehended' by the darkness of the world, the Unmoved Mover on whom all things depend, around Whom all things revolve, Who draws all men to Himself. Is it not just because we acknowledge that centripetal attraction and would yield ourselves willingly to its power that we are members of the Company? And perhaps—yes, it might be granted—perhaps our adventure into the art of praying may through our little book prove the means of attracting others.

Celebrity Concerts

WILFRED RANSOM

For a number of years, Mill Hill Branch has been organising very successful Celebrity Concerts. There must be a number of Branches and Districts who are toying with the idea of doing likewise, and therefore I should like to put down on paper, in a general way, the methods we adopt at Mill Hill.

I should, at the outset, warn all potential impresarios and organisers that the quickest way to achieve sleepless nights, a sense of frustration and the possibility of duodenal ulcers is to attempt to persuade folk to leave their television sets on a winter's evening for the doubtful pleasure of sitting in a draughty, half-empty hall and listening to an artist about whom they know nothing.

It is therefore desirable and in fact most necessary that a Branch aims *high* right from the start. Try and

engage the better known artists who have a reputation and a name which add up to 'drawing power'. Do not be deterred by apparent high costs nor be afraid of the risk of failure or comparative failure of the first concert.

We organise these Celebrity Concerts in Mill Hill with certain objects in view.

1. To bring to the District a much needed cultural activity.
2. To assist financially in a small way our Film Unit activities.
3. To keep the name of Toc H before the public and to engender and maintain a substantial reservoir of goodwill. I feel it is necessary to have similar aims in any such initiative.

A suitable hall should be found where there is a stage large enough to take a Concert Grand and where the acoustics and seating facilities come up to standard. From experience it is found that a piano recital is the most popular and having decided on the hall I suggest you do the following.

1. Provisionally reserve one or two dates well ahead—this will give ample time for planning.
2. Write to the agents and get the services of a distinguished pianist. Explain to the agent the Charitable purpose of your concert(s) and in all probability the artist(s) will slightly reduce their fees.
3. Having settled on the date, your artist and then be in a position to know your expenditure, price your tickets accordingly. From experience do price them reasonably and to save a lot of work make only one price. A reasonable price means contented and satisfied patrons who will be very happy to come to the next concert.

Next, hire a Concert Grand from a reputable firm who will see the piano is tuned just before the concert. Print a large quantity of leaflets and posters with all the relevant details. Organise leaflet raids and even house-to-house canvassing explaining this is your first venture in the realm of bringing good music to the district. It is expedient to leave the issue of tickets to one man as this avoids, we hope, duplicating of work. Breathe, live, talk and even dream about Celebrity Concerts from then on —you will bore your friends and acquaintances but heed

not, for you will *in time* obtain the desired results—a packed hall, a most enjoyable and uplifting evening with an abundance of goodwill towards Toc H.

You will find a great joy in meeting the distinguished artists, who are all so very human and eager to please. In this connection, make yourself known to the artists who are coming, make sure they know the way to the hall, arrange to meet them and put them at their ease. A good start creates the right atmosphere which is so very essential. A few *don'ts* before I end this article (these are *my own* views)

Hendon and Finchley Times

Miss Eileen Joyce receiving a bouquet from the writer of this article.

1. Do not be deterred by carping criticism to the effect that organising a Celebrity Concert is not Toc H work.

2. Do not include amateur and professional artists in the same programme.

3. Do not become cluttered up with Committees organising the concerts. Much better to have a man who is so enthusiastic and single minded that he goes it alone and just reports back to the Executive.

4. Do not, in the interval, arrange for cups of tea, coffee, etc., for the audience. This only destroys the occasion you have diligently been building up.

There are many points (e.g., choice of programmes) which I have not covered; I shall be most happy to assist in any way possible and attempt to answer any questions. Without in any way advertising, I should mention that the following very eminent artists are appearing at our Concerts during the present season, Denis Matthews, Peter Katin, The Amadeus String Quartet, Clifford Curzon, and Annie Fischer.

Elder Brethren

'With proud thanksgiving . . .'

ALEXANDER.—On December 11, in a road accident, WILLIAM JOHN ALEXANDER, aged 78, a member of Prestatyn Branch. Elected 1.2.'56.

BEARDSLEY.—On December 20, THOMAS BEARDSLEY, aged 57, a member of Mablethorpe Branch. Elected 31.10.'57.

BESLY.—On December 4, the Rev. LIONEL BESLY, aged 66, a member of Malmesbury Branch. Elected 1.6.'39.

BUDGEN.—On December 7, CHARLES DAVID BUDGEN, aged 57, a member of Bromley Branch. Elected 13.12.'28.

CANNING BAILY.—On December 13, PHILIP EDWIN CANNING BAILY, aged 78, a member of Mundesley Branch. Elected 12.3.'53.

CORDING.—On December 19, WILLIAM ALFRED CORDING, aged 50, a member of Loughton Branch. Elected 16.12.'58.

DAVIES.—On August 17, JOSEPH DAVIES, aged 72, a member of Arnside Branch. Elected 1.1.'35.

FORSYTH.—On November 21, WILLIAM FORSYTH, aged 73, a founder member of Falkirk Central Branch. Elected 20.10.'30.

HARRISON.—On December 11, JAMES HARRISON ('Tim'), aged 57, a member of Knowle Branch. Elected 7.1.'50.

JEX.—On October 4, EDWIN BAZIL JEX, aged 78, a member of Askrigg Branch. Elected 16.8.'50.

JOHNSON.—On December 7, Major JOHN GORDON JOHNSON, aged 64, a member of Budleigh Salterton Branch. Elected 1.9.'54.

LAW.—On January 13, PERCY WILLIAM LAW, aged 56, a member of Cheriton Branch. Elected 7.11.'61.

PROTHEROE-SMITH—On November 23, Lieut-Col. Sir HUGH BATEMAN PROTHEROE-SMITH, aged 89, a South Western Area member. Elected 3.1.'30.

RADFORD.—On December 7, LEONARD ARTHUR RADFORD, aged 44, a member of Hoddesdon Branch. Elected 27.7.'39.

RAINS.—Suddenly, on December 9, KENNETH RAINS, aged 52, a Manchester Area member. Elected 25.2.'30.

RICHARDS.—On October 17, JOHN ELSOM RICHARDS, aged 66, a member of Coney Hall Branch. Elected 9.9.'60.

RILEY.—On December 16, REGINALD GRANVILLE RILEY, aged 45, a member of West Hallam (Staton) Branch. Elected 11.5.'55.

SIMMONS.—On December 6, WILLIAM CHARLES SIMMONS, aged 74, a member of Dawlish Branch. Elected 6.5.'54.

SKINNER.—On September 2, WILLIAM SKINNER, aged 76, a member of Cheriton Branch. Elected 19.2.'48.

SLAUGHTER.—On December 8, ARTHUR ALBERT SLAUGHTER, aged 61, an Eastern London Area member. Elected 13.6.'47.

WARNER.—On December 4, ALBERT EDWARD WARNER, aged 53, a member of Coney Hall Branch. Elected 25.8.'51.

WILSON.—On December 5, PETER WILSON, aged 57, a member of Arnside Branch. Elected 23.10.'61.

The Unseen Chain

TOM GULLIVER

THE WORLD CHAIN OF LIGHT is the most important event in the Toc H year when, more than at any other time, "we think of all within the sweep of the Father's love and of the power of the Holy Spirit to build out of human love and loyalty a Light to lighten the nations, and to guide men's feet into the way of peace". To inaugurate the 1961 World Chain, some seventy people gathered at Dor Knap, from North Cotswold District and other parts of the West and East Midlands, from Beds. and Herts. and from Surrey. Messages were received from Atherton Branch (Manchester), Oldham men and women, the Northern Area; from Richard Ridges, a founder member, and Jashbhai Patel of Kampala. From Tubby a message to say men would be standing-to at Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary and Vancouver. It was grand to know that thanks to Tubby's efforts at re-building, our brothers in Canada would be taking their place in the great Chain.

Those who were to take part in the Vigil assembled in the Chapel for a short service conducted by Jack Hobbs, West Midlands Area Padre, who said that the Light kindled in Dor Knap would encircle the earth as surely as a man-made satellite; but would accomplish, by God's grace and with the help of the Holy Spirit, much more than those instruments of fear, "for one Lamp can light a thousand, nor grow less; so nobleness enkindleth nobleness". As the light goes forward around the world, it will encourage us also to go forward in the fellowship of God to work with hand and brain for the establishment of His truth and peace in a shadowed world. For "God

does with us, what we with torches do, not light us for ourselves".

Then, 'Light' having been taken by George Atkinson, the Warden of Dor Knap, the Vigil began. Jack had reminded us that it was no easy task to undertake to watch and pray, each in turn, for twenty-four hours. Yet it was a task gladly entered into, joyfully performed and "thoroughly accomplished". The devotions in chapel matched by the fellowship of the table, the discussions salted by good humour, the minor chores as willingly accepted as the hourly watch in the Chapel; did ever a more joyful company keep a Vigil? Yet were we ever mindful of our task: to pray "that Toc H may realise its destiny as a God-chosen instrument".

Events like this cannot be evaluated by the world's standards. Whatever else was accomplished by this twenty-four hour Act of Devotion, something was wrought in the lives of those who participated in the Vigil. Dor Knap will never be quite the same place for us again.

A new publication . . .

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AN ANTHOLOGY OF

THE BORDON COMPANY

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FAR CRY

-overseas notes

Contributed by GEOFF MARTIN

The Thursday Group

This multi-racial Toc H group in Johannesburg was started some months ago with the object of bringing responsible African leaders and Europeans together. The Chairman, ALF COATES (European) has sent us this photograph which originally appeared on December 2, 1961, in a supplement to *The World*, an African paper which has the highest circulation among the African people.

The group is tackling several jobs, one of its main ones being the formation of a Citizens' Advice Bureau similar to those already established in Britain. The Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Jobmaster are Africans. Recently a rally was held at Ezenzeleni in the Transvaal and in his letter Alf says, "It is interesting that while South Africa gets so much adverse publicity on the African question there is far more integration going on here unofficially than in any other country in Africa".

The extract from *The World* reads as follows:

These Johannesburg business men formed the Toc H Thursday Group because they believe that one of the foremost priorities today is for the different sections of the community to learn to

know one another and, by working together, evolve a practical way of living, based on Christian principles that are acceptable to all people in this country.

The twin pillars upon which Toc H builds its structure are fellowship and service, and the character of an individual is regarded as more important than his physical appearance or his degree of social standing.

¶ Toc H has been called "Everyman's Club" and if its way were accepted by more people it could be one of the greatest reconciling and peaceful factors, not only in South Africa, but throughout the world.

THE THURSDAY GROUP. Top (l. to r.) John Goldfinch, Harry Stafford, Godfrey Khomo, Sidney Matshiqi, Ben Minnikin. Seated (l. to r.) Padre Eddy Edwards (full-time Padre), Scarmell Jean, Sol Crutse (Vice-Chairman), Alf Coates, Fred Thabede.

Trichinopoly Flood Relief

"At an emergency meeting of the Trichy Branch which was attended by the Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. representatives it was decided to make a door to door collection of articles of food and clothing for the victims of the floods in the Cauvery Delta.

Smart Joseph organised the collection and volunteers wearing special badges and representing the Y.M.C.A., the Y.W.C.A. and the S.C.M. joined the members of the Trichy Branch and formed six teams. The whole town was covered and the result exceeded our expectations,

and included, among other things, much needed articles such as clothing, household utensils and rice.

A programme of distribution was worked out. On August 15, the secretary of the Branch (P. T. Oomen) accompanied by his son, Joy, set out in a vehicle placed at their disposal by Messrs. T. V. Sundram Iyengar & Sons. The Convener of the affair, Edward Samuel, David and Rajavaran as well as two non-members Verghese and Muthukrishnan accompanied them.

On the way they picked up the Regional Secretary, Herbert, and after breakfast with the T.E.L.C. Pastor at Lalgudi, drove on to Varagulur, one of the worst affected villages on the bank of the Coleroon. Here relief was distributed to about fifty families. The most deserving were picked out by the local Panchayat Board president and members.

The next village visited was Pudukottai. Here the people displayed great ingenuity by draining the water back into Coleroon by breaching a dyke that runs for several miles along the left bank of the river. The Local C.S.I. Pastor took refuge in his Church until persuaded by the police to get away from the place. (My father was the village parson there when this church was dedicated. —Ed.)

Other members of the Church who remained behind in the flooded village to protect property from pilferers were led by Mr. Kamalakaran.

Reprinted from "The Lamp".

P. T. OOMEN,
Secretary.

Don't just say brown
—say Hovis

★ Here are two further entries in the Competition 'Concerning Toc H'. For details see cover notice.

Toc H in Five Minutes

BERNARD DEWEY BROWN

OUR BRANCH meets the sixth form of a Girls' College three times a year for our mutual entertainment and education. Recently I was deputed to 'put over Toc H' to a new sixth form, and was allotted five minutes for the operation. After many hours of cogitation this was the result.

There is in this room a collection of men, handsome and otherwise, long and short, thin and thick (this could apply to figure, skin or even head). They come from all walks of life, and all stratas of the community. Some are Methodists, some Baptists, some C. of E., and some prefer to be known simply as catholic. This diversity of individuals makes up a Branch of Toc H.

In spite of the mixture, they have something very much in common: they all believe that God is the Father of all men and therefore all mankind is one family. They also believe that God is the God of Love and that we can be the channels through which it is poured out. I like to think this is like the widow's cruse: the more one pours out, the more there is available.

This word 'love', I suppose, is the most ill-used of all words. One says "I love pickled onions", another says "I am in love with Mary", another says "I love motor cycling" and so on. The 'love' I am speaking of means "caring for one's neighbour" and we all know who our neighbour is.

If we love the members of God's family we shall be interested in their persons. Our interest in normal persons will lead us to help with Scouts, Youth clubs, old people's clubs, local government and such social activities.

It is not so easy to love the abnormal persons, the spoilt child, the Teddy boy, the grumpy old woman, the boring old man, the drunkard, the depraved, the discharged prisoner, the unsavoury mendicant, the horribly deformed; but these are also members of the family, and because abnormal, need our love most.

One of the best sources of information about Toc H is the Toc H prayer. In this we ask God to help us:

To see our duty as His will,
To live together in love, joy and peace.
To check all bitterness,
To disown discouragement,
To practise thanksgiving,
To leap with joy to any task for others,

and to work for His kingdom in the wills of men. That is, by example and precept to encourage others to be the channels of His love.

Of course, all this is very difficult indeed. Of course, we fail to live up to all this, for we are but men after all. But it is an ideal at which we aim, and like all ideals is out of human reach. We can only hope that He will consider our failures to be glorious ones.

★ What Price Efficiency?

HOWARD HALL

It is written in the Four Points of the Compass that members are called upon to influence the formation of public opinion. It follows from this that it is incumbent upon us to see that our own contacts and relations with the public are impeccable. Can this be achieved without a reasonable degree of efficiency?

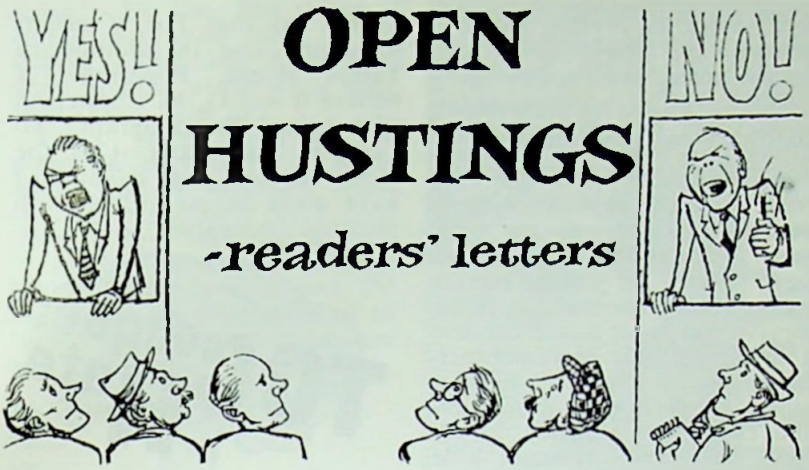
While, no doubt, this exists in the majority of Branches, it cannot be denied that in a few quarters here and there it is sadly lacking. Who has not suffered from unanswered invitations, guests who fail to turn up and

failure to follow up and report on commendations given to departing members? Twenty-five Branches last year failed to submit their rolls of members in good standing! The writer was once associated with a festival where it was not known two days beforehand whether 300 or 500 would attend; in the event, over 600 arrived to swamp the seating and feeding arrangements. And so on.

Common courtesy demands that we should extend to others the treatment which we ourselves would hope to receive in similar circumstances and it is to be hoped that our treatment of the general public achieves a higher standard than is sometimes to be found in our internal affairs. It is an appalling thought that we may be treating our outside contacts as some of us do our fellow members. If we are, we have a slender chance of taking or retaining a respected place in the opinion of our fellows as a power in the community, but are more likely to become notorious as a band of well-meaning incompetents.

Examples of inefficiency are not, of course, confined to clerical work. The Branch which can honestly say that a job has never been overlooked, delayed or bungled through oversight or over-enthusiasm in taking on too much must indeed be hard to find. But, human nature being what it is, one badly done job receives more notice than many done smoothly and quietly.

The importance of a mixture of men in a Branch of Toc H is continually being stressed. In a nation with so high a proportion of clerks and other business men can it be possible that any mixed gathering of a dozen or more men can fail to contain one or more who are capable of conducting its affairs with a reasonable degree of competency and despatch? Are we using those that we have to the best advantage? If not, it behoves us to take pains at our Annual General Meeting each year to choose for each office a man who is capable of executing it properly, and then making quite sure, for the good of our name, that he does so.



The Editor welcomes letters on all matters concerning Toc H and asks that they be written briefly and to the point. Effort is made to include a representative selection, and they are printed as individual view-points, not necessarily those of the Movement as a whole.

Public Image

I SEE that the cult of the "angry young man" has now arrived in Toc H. This is evidenced by John Mitchell's letter in the December issue of the JOURNAL in which he criticises one Toc H Branch and tries to emphasise his criticism by forceful and rude language. Like other angry young men, he is somewhat ambiguous and I am left in some doubt as to whether he is disgusted and horrified at Toc H working for the aged or just at members drinking tea with old people.

One of the major challenges of this day and age is the loneliness of the old and this particularly affects old people who have no relatives living near them and who are also so incapacitated that they cannot leave their homes without transport being provided. Toc H Branches are tackling this problem in many ways, one of which is by collecting old people from their homes and bringing them together in meeting places. Here they are entertained and given a 'cuppa'. Such old folk are particularly happy just to be able to chat to other older people or to Toc H members young and old, and tea is purely incidental. John Mitchell is very short sighted if he cannot see that the float referred to in his letter shows part only of this most important and oft neglected job and gives no grounds for assuming that we are becoming "an organisation of tea-brewing old dodderers"!

John Mitchell implies that Toc H should confine itself to working for youth in order to involve and bring young people into Toc H. I cannot agree with this, but rather feel that Toc H should, as at present, give its services where the need is greatest, bearing in mind what else is being done to satisfy any need, and in doing

this strike a proper balance between the challenges posed by the aged, sick and young.

While Toc H urgently wants young men to join it, it must still retain a balance of membership between the older men with their greater experience and wisdom and the younger men with their greater vigour and fresh ideas. It must recruit more young men if it is to survive but must never become a movement only of young men interested solely in helping others of their own generation and running a glorified Youth Club. We also must not hide our real work behind gilt wrapping purely to attract youth. I cannot believe that there are not a sufficiency of young men willing and able to help those in needy situations and generally becoming good members of Toc H. These are the men we must attract—how to do so is a much greater problem.

NEVILLE VEREKER.

London, S.W.5.

TO Conquer Hate

SINCE ITS ORIGIN the signallers jargon for Toc H has gone through various changes from 'TOC AITCH' to 'TARE HOW' and now 'TANGO HOTEL'. While the latter might conjure to mind the Old House in more glamorous terms it becomes increasingly difficult to explain our origins due to the dating of the jargon.

Most members, myself included, would still plump for our present name, for its unusualness and historic background are still valuable. But in view of the difficulty of explaining our Movement to future generations, especially those of other nations, should we not say that Toc H means something *else* in addition to Talbot House, Poperinge. I believe it was G. K. Chesterton who coined the anagram "To Conquer Hate" and it is the most relevant and dynamic I have come across. Used with pictorial illustration so:—

the effect is striking. Further it is an honest expression of our aim which would give our name, like the Ceremony of Light, a forward facet.

KEITH REA.

Toc H on TV

IN THE LAST ISSUE of the JOURNAL a letter mildly criticised the film taken at Dor Knap and the subsequent interview, in which I took part. I have only a few points to make. (*a*) Toc H was not responsible for the presentation of the film. The choice of material and location was entirely in the hands of ABC. (*b*) I do not suffer from a defective memory. The interview was not rehearsed. If the answers I gave did not fire the imagination it could just be that the jobs we do are not frightfully imaginative to start with. And as for mentioning Toc H and the dire years of unemployment, non-

sense! In the first place I would not know what I was talking about, and if we have done nothing worth while since then, God help us!

I, too, regret that I was not given the opportunity to speak about Toc H Women's Association, particularly as I hold them in very high regard.

One last point I would mention. I am not a trained TV actor, nor am I accustomed to three cameras, microphones and studio lights. I did *try*.

ALAN HILL.

Toc H Mark XXII,
S.E.5

'To' or 'For'

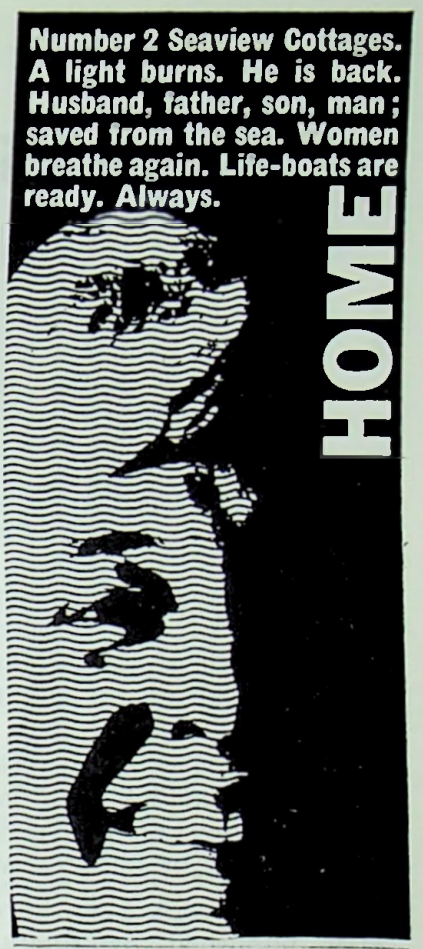
SO MY FRIEND and colleague Mayne Elson, according to his letter in the December JOURNAL, fiddled with crystal sets at schools did he? I wonder whether someone 'kept cavey' for him—listening *for* the master that Mayne might not subsequently have to listen *to* him?

Indeed, God is always speaking to us whether we are prepared to listen or not. It is part of our human freedom (given us by God) that we may accept or reject God's will. If we accept it, e.g., if we listen *to* Him and obey what He wills then we are blessed and made stronger for work in His service. If we reject, then we are rather in the position of Adam and Eve who "heard the voice of the Lord" in the garden and were impelled to go and hide themselves for shame.

If Toc H teaches us anything, it is surely the importance of moving further on from merely listening for God's voice towards listening *to* Him, in obedience and service.

CLIFFORD F. POLLARD.

Maidstone, Kent.



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Two Helping Hands

CLIFFORD F. POLLARD

LAST YEAR was notable for the publication of some first-class religious books. Two of these, both concerned with prayer, are worth knowing about, especially if we want to act on our Main Resolution—"to listen now and always for the voice of God".

The first, *Prayer Book Meditations throughout the Year* is by Francis L. Wheeler and published by Mowbrays at 12s. 6d. Although written with Anglicans in mind, it goes far beyond the thought of any one denomination, and faithful Free Churchmen will find it constructive and helpful. Each of the Meditations (there are fifty-nine in all) is straightforward and to the point, but each opens out most stimulating lines of thought for prayer and action. Toc H members, for example, might study pages 36–7 ('Let your light so shine'); 50–1 ('Honest among the Gentiles'); and 82–3 ('Tears over the City'). They will gain new insight into the Movement's real job.

The other book is in the well-known "Teach Yourself" series published by English Universities Press. It is called, quite simply, *Teach Yourself to Pray* by Stephen F. Winward and costs 6s. 0d. As the Author rightly says in his Preface: "There is too much general exhortation (to pray) and far too little practical instruction." In this book, he tries to set that right, and on the whole succeeds admirably. He keeps a fair balance between theory and practice—between the ideal and the attainable—and all the time encourages us to reach out further and attain more.

One of the most valuable features of the book is the diary of personal prayer at the end. Used in conjunction

with our own *Pocketful of Prayers for Toc H* it will provide a balanced and relevant spiritual guide for any Toc H member.

Both books are good. But both books need to be used day in and day out if they are to have their full value, especially the second. We must remember that prayer is an essentially personal thing and we cannot expect books, however good, to do our own work for us.

A Modern Saint

He's just a typical city parson,
A faithful shepherd of modern men—
Attends committees, takes Bible classes;
Prepares two sermons for Sundays, then
Must preach to all of his flock, including
Some whose perception's not razor-keen.
Lord, who didst beautify all things homespun,
Enrich his life through the week's routine.

He has no car—uses Shanks's pony
For calls on old folk in one bleak room;
He visits hospitals almost daily,
His handshake cheering a patient's gloom;
He tiredly queues for erratic buses,
Or stands in trains with the rush hour load.
Lord, who didst travel the hills and valleys,
Bless Thou his journeys, protect his road.

His work means people: the proud, the worried,
The sad and awkward and bored and vexed;
He's often tempted to hurry, blindly,
From one rushed interview to the next;
Yet each lone soul, in the body's cover,
Needs restitution to power and praise.
Lord, enter into his heart's own stillness,
And lead him on through the strenuous days.

DOROTHY FLANN

Going Places, 1962

PARTIES TO POPERINGE, BELGIUM AND HOLLAND

THIS YEAR, a variety of visits are being planned and Parties arranged by Areas are also open to all-comers. Enquiries or applications should go direct to the leaders. Individual bookings for the Old House, and all general enquiries, should be made with the OLD HOUSE SECRETARY, Toc H Headquarters, 15 Trinity Square, E.C.3.

N.B. As some of these parties are likely to be in great demand, please apply without delay.

APRIL 19-24 (Easter). NOTTS. AND DERBY AREA PARTY, led by EDWIN NUTTALL, 373 Carlton Road, Worksop, Notts.

APRIL 21-28. ST. ALBANS PARTY (4 days in Bruges), led by Miss SHIRLEY JONES, 38 Fishpool Street, St. Albans, Herts.

MAY 4-7. MIXED WEEK-END PARTY, led by The Rev. STEPHEN FOWLER, Huggen's College, Northfleet, Kent.

MAY 23-25. LONDON SCOTTISH REGT. O.C.A.

MAY 29-31. BAOR STAFF CONFERENCE.

MAY 31-JUNE 4. OVERSEAS ASSEMBLY, led by GEOFF MARTIN, Toc H Headquarters, 15 Trinity Square, London, E.C.3.

JUNE 9-12 (Whitsun). HUDDERSFIELD & HALIFAX DIST. PARTY, led by JOHN S. PERKINS, 520 Wakefield Road, Dalton, Huddersfield.

JUNE 18-JULY 3. SCOTTISH PARTY, led by Miss FRANCES M. BEETON, 25 Montpelier, Edinburgh, 10.

JULY 28-AUGUST 11. MIXED PARTY, week's visit to Holland, followed by second week in Belgium; five days in Bruges, inc. reserved seats *Sanguis Christi*, and two days at the Old House. Details from F. G. CHESWORTH, Editorial Office, Toc H Headquarters, 15 Trinity Square, London, E.C.3.

JULY 28-AUGUST 4. HOUSE PARTY, about twenty persons. All-in cost (London to London) including three excursions, about £18. B'fast and lunch at Old House, dinners at hotels; led by Charles Jackson, 23 Beechwood Avenue, Thornton Heath, Surrey.

AUGUST 11-18. WINANT VOLUNTEERS.

AUGUST 18-25. NORTH LONDON PARTY (Programme includes final performance of *Sanguis Christi* in Bruges), led by S. J. NEILLY, 11 Brookside South, East Barnet, Herts.

AUGUST 25-SEPTEMBER 1. YOUNG MEMBERS PARTY, led by Miss E. PERRIN, Toc H Women's Association, Crutched Friars, London, E.C.3.

SEPTEMBER 1-8. BEDS. & HERTS. AREA, led by R. C. FABES, The Rectory, Marston Moreteyne, Bedford.

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Index

The Index for Volume XXXIX is now available. Readers wishing to obtain copies are invited to send a stamped, addressed envelope (2½d.) to the Editorial Office.

'Concerning Toc H'

All readers are invited to submit original articles for publication in the JOURNAL. As long as it has a bearing on Toc H, the subject matter can be serious or light-hearted, factual or imaginary, short or long (with a maximum of approximately 500 words).

All entries for the Competition, which should be marked 'Concerning Toc H', will be considered by an Editorial Panel, and those deemed suitable given a distinguishing mark ★ and printed. Every Branch and group is asked to spend a little time each month to consider the articles and decide which has the greatest interest for them. Their decision to be noted by a 'Scorer' appointed for the year.

At the conclusion of the Competition, the 'Scorer' will ask the other members to compare the eleven articles they have chosen and to decide by vote which they consider the most outstanding. On the basis of Branch and group votes received, the writer of the highest-placed entry will be entitled to nominate any Branch or group he chooses to receive an award of £5 5s. 0d. for the unit funds.

Advertisers

Manufacturers of a wide range of articles of interest to our readers will find the JOURNAL pages helpful in making their goods and services known. Enquiries about space and charges will be welcomed by Stan Waters, who handles our advertising, at Messrs. Arthur H. Wheeler & Co., St. Stephen's House, Victoria Embankment, London, S.W.1.

Ourselves

The Toc H JOURNAL is published monthly eleven times a year. The April issue is a double number and there is no August number. A subscription can commence with any issue and costs only 9s. for a complete year.

N.B.—A price concession to 7s. 6d. per dozen, post free, is made to Branches ordering a minimum of one dozen.

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